

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The paragraph at Page 5, lines 16-21:

The coating applicator 250 is provided with a path filled with atmospheric gas, through which the bare optical fiber passes. The coating applicator 250 has a retainer in which liquid-coating material fed from its storage tank (not shown) is contained. The bare optical fiber 230 is coated in the course of passing through the retainer. This coating material, like various types of UV curable resin, ~~has~~ is curable under UV radiation.

Alternatively, thermosetting resin may be used for the coating material.

The paragraph at Page 5, line 22 and Page 6, lines 1-5:

The scattering monitor 270 has a sealed housing which can communicate with its external ~~what?~~ elements through the upper and lower holes 272 and 274. The coated bare optical fiber 260 passes through the housing 270, specifically, from the upper hole 272 to the lower hole 274. The diameter of the upper and lower holes 272 and 274, respectively, are slightly larger than that of the optical fiber 260, thereby preventing external light from penetrating the housing through the upper and lower holes 272 and 274, respectively.